Influx of Bangladesh in North Eastern States

213. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that same type of conditions are developing in the North Eastern States as are prevailing in the Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, whether a team of Union Ministers were sent to these States in June, 1994 to study the situation;

(c) if so, the outcome of the visit of the team of Ministers;

(d) whether smuggling of arms and unabated influx of Bangladeshis in these States have assumed a serious situation; and

(e) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) Existing conditions in some of the States of North Eastern region are of serious concern but it will not be appropriate to draw any parallel with the situation prevailing in the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

(b) and (c) A Committee was constituted by the Prime Minister to look into the problems of tribal communities in the North Eastern States. The Committee, decided to visit all the North-Eastern States in 3 separate Groups led by Union Home Minister, Union Finance Minister and Union Commerce Minister respectively. The three Groups visited the NE States and exchanged views with a cross section of the people including among others representatives of political parties, non-governmental organisations, promient citizens and the press. Impressions gathered during the visits are being discussed in the full Committee.

(d) and (e) Government are seized of the problem of illegal immigration/infiltration from across the borders and have taken several measures in this regard which, inter alia include intensification of patrolling by the Border Security Forces, strengthening of the BSF Water Wing, accelerated programme of construction of border roads and fencing, strengthening of the Prevention of Infiltration (PIF)/Mobile Task Force (MTF) Schemes, issue of Identity Cards to people residing in identified border areas etc. Further, there are standing instructions to State Governments and UT Administration to detect and deport illegal immigrants. The matter has been taken up strongly with the Government of Bangladesh on several occasions at high levels. Government of India's concern in this regard was highlighted in the talks held by the Union Home Secretary during his visit to Bangaladesh in October, 1993. Consequently, a Indo-Bangladesh Joint Working Group (JWG) has been set up to examine in depth, all outstanding matters, inculding this issue, and to recommend practical measures for resolving them. The first meeting of the JWG was held on 29-31 March, 1994, wherein this issue was also discussed in detail.

Present status of proposals or devtlopment board in Gujarat

214. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some State Governments have submitted proposals for setting up of Development Boards in their States for approval of the Union Government in rescent year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present status of proposal of Government of Gujarat regarding